



Gp 2827

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Nobuaki HASHIMOTO

Group Art Unit: 2827

Application No.: 09/615,503

Examiner: D. Graybill

Filed: July 13, 2000

Docket No.: 101929.02

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE, METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME, CIRCUIT BOARD, AND ELECTRONIC APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the January 14, 2002 Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Species I, Figure 6, with traverse. At least claims 1-9 and 14-20 read on the elected species. At least claims 1-8 and 18-20 are generic to all species.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

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Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 13, 2003

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